

A Report on the 6th International Symposium on the family Zingiberaceae, Calicut University, Kerala, India

The 6th International Symposium on the family Zingiberaceae was held at the University of Calicut from September 10-13, 2012. The inaugural session started with the welcome address by Prof. M. Sabu, Head of the Department of Botany and Organizing Secretary of Symposium. Prof. K. V. Mohanan, Chairman, local organizing committee delivered the presidential address. Dr. Abdul Salam, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Calicut inaugurated the symposium by lighting the lamp and followed by inaugural address. Prof. K. Raveendranath, Pro-Vice-Chancellor released the abstract volume. The book authored by Dr. Axel Paulsen "*Eltingera of Sulawesi*" was released on the occasion by Prof. Abdul Salam. Dr. W. John Kress, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, released the abstract volume by giving a copy to the Vice-Chancellor. Dr. Anandraj, IISR, Calicut, Dr. Tamil-Selvan, Horticulture Commission, New Delhi and Prof. P.V. Madhusoodanan, Malabar Botanic Garden, Calicut delivered felicitation address. Dr. A.K. Pradeep, Treasurer, IAAT proposed the vote of thanks.

More than 180 delegates from Universities, Colleges and research institutions across the country and outside the country such as China, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Japan, Norway and



Lighting of the lamp during the inaugural ceremony by Dr. Abdul Salam, Hon'ble. Vice-Chancellor,

United States participated. The seminar provided an opportunity for ginger specialists to discuss current issues in Ginger Taxonomy, Reproductive Biology, Molecular Systematics, Conservation, Ethnobotany, Pharmacology, Phytochemistry, Ecology, Horticulture and Crop improvement.



Dr. Abdul Salam, Hon'ble. Vice-Chancellor, delivering the inaugural address

The inauguration was followed by the plenary lectures by Dr. W. John Kress, Smithsonian Institution, USA and Dr. Axel Paulsen, Norway. Three more plenary lectures were delivered by Dr. Jana Leong Skornickova, Singapore, Dr. Piyakaset Suksathan, Thailand and Dr. Nirmal Babu, India on the second and third day of the Seminar. A total of 54 papers were presented orally in four sessions viz., I. Taxonomy, Molecular phylogeny and Systematics; II. Ethnobotany, Pharmacology & Phytochemistry; III. Reproductive Biology,



Release of abstract by Prof. K. Raveendranath, Pro-Vice-Chancellor



Participants visiting Ginger Villa in the Botanical Garden



Participants of the Symposium

Ecology and Conservation and IV. Horticulture and Crop improvement. Apart from oral presentations 41 posters were presented during the conference. Three best posters were selected and have been given one year free subscription to *Taxon* and a membership to International Association of Plant Taxonomy.

The three best posters selected for the award are as follows.

1. Taxonomic and variability studies in 'hidden purple ginger', a charming ornamental ginger to the tropics by Prabhu kumar. K.M., M. Sabu, V.P. Thomas & K.V. Mohanan.
2. Variability of terpenoid defense against *Pythium myriotylum* in cultivated and wild species of Zingiber. Keerthi Divakaran, A.K. Resna & R. Aswathi Nair.
3. Ethnobotanical uses of Zingiberaceae plants in Tamenglong District of Manipur, India. Daimei. P. & Y. Kumar.



Release of Book on *Etlingera of Sulavesi* by Dr. Axel Paulsen

A one day field visit was also organized on the fourth day to Wayanad and visited the Cardamom, coffee, tea and pepper plantations. The Tholpetty

wild life sanctuary was also visited during the trip.

The International symposium concluded with the valedictory session. The session was chaired Prof. K.M. Jayaram, Department of Botany, and Valedictory address by Dr. John Kress USA. Dr. Jana Leong Skornickova, distributed the certificates to the awardees. Dr. Axel Paulsen presented mementos to the plenary Speakers. Mr. A. Vasudevan, the veteran gardener, who has been looking after the gingers of Calicut University Botanical Garden for the past 25 years, was felicitated by W.J. Kress. Prof. M. Sabu, Organizing Secretary proposed vote of thanks. The symposium was supported by CSIR, DST, INSA, ICAR, KSCSTE and DBT.



Dr. John Kress, delivering valedictory address

As part of the cultural programme the traditional Theyyam sponsored by Kerala Folklore Academy and classical dance forms Bharathanatyam and Mohiniyattam were also performed.

Prof. M. Sabu
Organizing Secretary
Ginger Symposium-12
University of Calicut